

Rev. John W. Mendenhall 10:30 5/2/69

*Processional Hymn 127
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading Bel. 51 Pr. 599
Hymn 127
Scripture Acts 10: 21-48
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Athena
Announcements

Offering, Prayer
*Hymn 214
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 469
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen

Rev. Martin 11:00 5/29/69

*Processional Hymn 127
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Acts 10: 21-48
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Athena
Announcements

Prayer
EVEN SYMPATHY to the SICK & FAMILY
HARRY SHAW
FLORIAN FIM FIM
CARE for the FUTURE

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 124
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 261
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen

Call to worship: O come let us worship and bow
down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God: and we are the people of his
pasture and the sheep of His hand.

Call to Confession: Jesus said, "Behold I stand at
the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and
opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with
him and he with me. This is the promise to seek
Him, so let us now seek His forgiveness.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: The Lord is merciful and
gracious. For as the heavens are high above the
earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those
who fear him; as far as the East is from the West,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Amen.

CHRIST:
HEIRDELBERG

THANKS TO ALL FOR NEXT SEP

TRINITY
BOOKS & GRIFF
SYMPATHY

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Ralph C. Link, Pastor
 Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
 Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP November 12, 1972

The Organ Prelude
 *The Hymn of Praise 43
 *The Call to Worship
 *The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
 Father, we have done wrong; by not caring
 when we should have loved; by our indiffer-
 ence to the cry of need; and by hating and
 ignoring our neighbors. We have rejected
 the way of your Son, and no longer deserve
 to be called your children. O God, we can-
 not help ourselves; forgive us, through
 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
 *The Kyrie
 *The Assurance of Pardon
 The Scripture----Acts 10:1-43
 *The Gloria Patri
 The Anthem (Trinity)
 The Pastoral Prayer
 The Announcements
 The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
 *The Doxology
 *The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
 The Hymn of Meditation 468
 The Sermon----"What's The Good Word?"
 The Sermon Prayer
 *The Hymn of Response 271
 *The Benediction
 *The Threefold Amen
 *The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible study on Wed. at the church in Duncannon
 at 7:30 PM.

The collection for American Indian Sunday
 will be held next Sunday November 19th.

A meeting is being called at 7:00 PM tonight
 at the church in Duncannon for all of the
 youth of both churches.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family Thank-Offering Service will be held
 November 19th during the church service.
 Envelopes and boxes are in the back of the
 church.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

A brief meeting of the chancel committee
 will be held following the worship service
 this morning.

Women's Guild will meet on Tues. Nov. 14th
 at 7:30 PM at the church. Women from Trinity
 are invited.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE Nov 1972
ALL CHURCHES INVITED

Text: Acts 10; 33

"Here we all are, assembled in front of you to hear what message God has given you for us."

"Here we all are, assembled in front of you to hear what message God has given you for us." This is what Cornelius said to Peter. This is indeed what any member of any congregation can say to their preacher on any given Sunday. *A VERY PROPER QUESTION TO ASK & CORNELIUS ASKED IT.* Cornelius was not a Jew. He and his household were very devout and followed the Jewish religion, but up to a point. They would not become circumcised as was required by Jewish law. But nevertheless they were not pagans. Cornelius in the earlier part of the chapter (10th Chapter of Acts), if you care to read it for yourself, had a vision. He saw Jesus and Jesus told him to contact Peter. So he sent his agents to bring Peter to him that he might find out what this was all about. Peter then gave Cornelius the only thing that he could, and this was his faith and belief in Jesus. In essence what is recorded here is one of the first sermons of the early Church. Peter in a very short way, and very simply, in very simple language explained the life and ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus.

This is basically all we can preach. The life, ministry death and resurrection of Jesus. This is the Gospel. All of it tied up neatly in one little package and from it we must try to gain new insights and new ideas week after week. And so when we come to church as Cornelius came to Peter, we can question and ask, "What has God given in a message this week? What has He spoken to you to tell us?" Its rather strange that some weeks He really speaks loud and clear. But on other weeks He doesn't seem to be talking too much. I do not say this disrespectfully or sacrilegiously, but truthfully. I have had people ask me about God. Some have confided in me that they seek God's help and God's guidance constantly and yet many times God does not seem to be too near at hand. I can not tell if God is near to you or to other people. I can only tell you how near God has been to me. I can only tell you of my experiences and perhaps in this way it may help you to feel the nearness of God. I have felt many times that God is not listening, that He is somewhere else and not with me. Yet after a day or two goes by and the answer I have been seeking appears, I know once again for a fact that

God is near and that He did indeed hear my prayer. To some people this is hard to accept. They cannot believe that God works in this way. They seem to feel or ^{SOMEWHAT} have heard quite wrongly that God answers immediately, like an IBM computer. But this is not so. Sometimes the answer you may seek will not be forthcoming in a matter of weeks, but rest assured that God will show you the answer sometime in some way. It may even take the ^{FORM OF} ~~of~~ another person coming into your life. Have you ever had a total stranger come up to you and talk to you about the very thing that you ~~have~~ been seeking an answer for? If you have, you can realize that this could become very unnerving. But yet it may be the way in which God has chosen to give His answer to you. This is exactly how He worked through Peter. He gave a vision to Cornelius telling him to seek out Simon Peter. And when he did he was very simply given the message of the Gospel.

Peter has always been one of my favorite New Testament characters. I have always liked his boldness, his dash and his nerve. He was an impetuous man. He wanted to get things done. If we look around us we can see some Simon Peter ^S lay. Let me add that this is not a bad thing to possess in any Church, it is a good thing. Most of us are easy going, slow moving, it'll get done when I get to it types of people. But the Simon Peters want to get it done today, and they would much rather to have today's work done yesterday if they can. They are probably the real mainstays of any church since they continually strive to get things done. We have some Simon Peters in this congregation. Men and women who are not content to merely delegate the work to someone else, but who feel a personal responsibility to get the work accomplished. I have always thought of one of my dearest friends as being exactly like Simon Peter. ~~You have seen him and heard him preach. Paul Aloyi is his name.~~ ^{THEY ARE ALL PRESENT} I have known this man for over twenty years. He is impetuous, he becomes angry when something is left hanging. He worries that he cannot and is not doing enough for the church. He wants to get everything moving and keep it rolling. ~~At the laymen's sessions in Greensburg, Paul was al-~~ ^{THAT IS} ~~ways the one to get the subject back on the track whenever the discussion went~~ of into another tangent. His motto of let's get the show on the road is one followed by others as well. But yet with all of the impetuosity and with all of the

drive and the dash and nerve, underneath the surface these people are just wanting to serve the Lord the best they know how. We need Simon Peters in every congregation, as well as ~~the~~ John and the Marks, ^{6 LUKAS MATTHEW} and a few more of the quieter ones. It takes all of this to make a congregation. But it takes men and women who will never cease trying to find God in their lives. Men and women who will not quit because God has seemed to be apart from them for a moment of crisis. Men and women who will still seek their answers. I ~~recently~~ ^{WAS} talking to a woman ^{SOMETIME Ago} who hasn't gone to Church since her mother died several years ago. I knew this woman's mother quite well. She was a wonderful person. She went to church regularly and tried to lead a good life. Yet because she died a rather slow and horrible death this daughter sort of blames God. She asked me, ^{IS} what ^{QUITE FRANKLY} the answer ^{is} is. I don't know the answer. All I know is that we each have a certain length of time to live. To some death comes quick and easy, to others it is slow and painful. We cannot control it. All we can do is to believe that God is with us helping us no matter what the crisis may be. I do not believe we are punished for our sins to the extent that the worse we are the worse our death will be. Because we can witness to the fact that some pretty rotten people we may have known went pretty ^{QUICKLY} ~~quick~~, while some very decent good people lingered on and on. But if we cannot accept the fact that God loves us and cares for us then ~~no~~ amount of talking is going to change someone's mind. It is simply a matter of faith. Something must kill ^{YES BUT} ~~us~~ and whether it happens quick ^{or} slow is really no reflection on the goodness or badness of our lives.

Peter was telling the only story that he knew. The old old story ^{LIKE THE HYMN TELL ME THE OLD, OLD STORY} of Jesus and His love. This is the only story that any preacher can really use time after time. It seems that the ways of telling it are endless and yet it is a story that never grows old. It will continue to live on as long as there are men who are willing to tell it. Peter is a very good example of what the Lord can do to a man when he comes into his life. Here was an uncouth fisherman. A man of very little learning and schooling, but yet a man who had a will of iron and an unfainting spirit once he got started for the Lord. God has done this down through history with many other men. David is a good example. A simple shepherd boy, and yet he became a very great and powerful king of Israel.

Saul of Tarsus is another good example. He persecuted Christians and yet God came into his life and changed him into a Christian. The story is told of an old man who was a drunkard and who had strangely been converted. He ceased his drinking and became a hard working sober individual. His fellow workers tried to make a fool of him and continually teased him. They would say, "Surely you don't believe in miracles and all that jazz?" Surely you can't believe that Jesus turned water into wine?" The old man answered, "I don't know whether He ~~changed~~ ^{turned} water into wine when He was in Palestine. But I do know that in my own house and home He has ~~changed~~ ^{turned} beer into furniture." God can do this to anyone. He can take the most unlikely individual and turn him into a real ~~powerhouse~~ powerhouse. He can change you and I if we let Him. We need to accept simply and humbly the simple Gospel of Christ. The Gospel as told by Peter and all of the preachers down through the centuries. We need to merely accept it, believe in it and live it and God can work in our lives as He has in the past. The day of miracles is not over as some may think. The biggest miracle of all may still be wrought by God. And this is the miracle of changing each of us into His willing workers, and the making of each of us into His ministers here on earth. If we are willing to call upon Him and to let Him work in our lives we may be amazed at the results that occur in our lives and the lives of those around us. "Here we are all assembled in front of you to hear what message God has given you for us." This was the message of Cornelius to Peter and it is our message to the preachers and Churches of our time. The answer is simply, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only Begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life." ~~These were~~ ^{THESE WERE} Peter's words to his questioners and these are the words we need to live by. God give us strength to live the Gospel as well as to preach it. Let us pray.

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
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Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.